(b) if so, the total land distributed to the SCs/STs in pursuance of the said recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan for welfare of weaker sections in Assam

5270. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched and implemented various schemes/programmes to provide loan facilities under NSFDC for the welfare of SCs, STs, other weaker and backward sections of the society in the State of Assam during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, category-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of fund allocated and released for the above purpose during this period; and

(d) the total number of persons benefited till date, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The government are implementing various programmes through NSFDC for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State of Assam.

(b) to (d) Details are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 123]

Drug-addiction among the Youth

5271. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that drug-addiction, particularly amongst the youth, is spreading day by day in the country;

(b) whether Government have, so far, conducted any study, particularly amongst university students, in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the findings, State-wise;

(d) whether the United Nations has also extended its cooperation financially/technically to combat/check drug-addiction in the country; and

(e) if so, what was the total financial assistance given by U.N. and how much amount Government have utilized, so far, State-wise, particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The different studies and reports indicate to a raising incidence of drug abuse amongst certain vulnerable sections of the society which include street children, commercial sex workers, youth, transport workers, slum dwellers, opium growers, border areas etc. With reference to the drug addiction amongst youth of the country, the Ministry sponsored a multi-centered study in 1975-76 and a repeat Study in 1985-86 to assess the prevalence of drug abuse amongst university students. The studies covered representative major cities of the country and the findings include *inter alia* higher prevalence of drug addiction amongst the male youth from the urban background.

The findings of a nation-wide study conducted in 33 selected cities/ towns and border areas in 1990 also indicate to the age group of 16-35 years as worse affected from addiction. This is also confirmed from the reports received by the Ministry from the organizations under its Scheme for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse.

(d) and (e) The Ministry has launched two major projects on alcohol and drug demand reduction in collaboration with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and International Labour Organizations (ILO):

(1) Community Wide Demand Reduction and Workplace Prevention in India.

(2) Community Wide Demand Reduction in the North-Eastern States of India.

The projects to be implemented during the four year period from 1999-2003, in four phases will have UN contribution of US$ 5.60 million over the entire project period, to be shared between UNDCP and ILO. The UN contribution shall be directly expended on the implementing agencies, which includes, *inter alia*, NGOs community based organizations etc. for implementation of different project components. As such, there shall not be any financial allocation to the Government or the States.